

HEALTH

RURAL

C.R.

DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

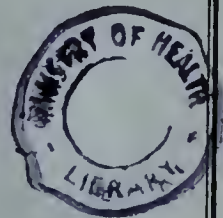
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1960



ARTHUR LUCAS

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present to you my Annual Report for 1960.

In general the statistics agree favourably with those for the rest of the Country. There were no outbreaks of infectious disease; no case of Poliomyelitis was notified.

Housing and Slum Clearance are progressing satisfactorily and at a rate which can equal any other Rural District of comparable size.

With the continued progress in sewerage in the District, it will not be long before all the villages are served with main drainage.

There have been no serious complaints regarding the water supply although regular sampling does on occasions reveal a sample which is slightly below par and which is remedied when increased chlorination of the water takes place.

As the Public Health Department is taking over building inspection very shortly one hopes that these additional duties will not detract from the good work which has been done in the Department in the sphere of Public Health during the past 12 years I have worked in the Department.

I must again thank the Public Health Committee for their continued interest in our work and also Mr. Turbitt, Mr. Caley and Mr. Mullis for their help in the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.
June, 1961.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward, J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

F. T. Kiildsen, Esq., C.C.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mrs. I. S. Forrest, Messrs L. S. Prosser (Chairman), J. R. R. Lees-Millais, J.P. (Vice-Chairman) (Resigned 4/11/60), L. C. Bartlett, S. Berry, J. N. Gibbard, P. W. Henn, W. A. N. Scott, P. G. Taylor (Elected 6/12/60) and L. Warren (Vice-Chairman).
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., County Hall, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Telephone No. Northampton 5580.

Also holds appointments of :—

Medical Officer of Health in Brackley Borough, Towcester R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and School Medical Officer, Northamptonshire County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors :

E. G. Mullis.

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1960

Area in acres	58,132
Population	11,280
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1960	3,449
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1960	£91,412
Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1960	£366

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamptonshire
Legitimate	194	98	96			
Illegitimate	12	6	6			
				18.2	17.1	17.7
Total	206	104	102			

Stillbirths

Legitimate	2	—	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				(per 1,000 births)		
				9.7	19.7	16.32
Total	2	—	2			

Deaths	112	56	56	(per 1,000 population)	9.9	11.5	10.88
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Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Infant Mortality

Legitimate	6	3	3			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				(per 1,000 live births)		
				29.1	21.7	22.57
Total	6	3	3			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
„ „ Measles	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ „ Infectious Diseases	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	Nil

The registered causes of death were:—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	9
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system...	8	14	22
18. Coronary diseases, angina	8	9	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
20. Other heart diseases	9	8	17
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	5	—	5
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	6	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicidal and operations of war	1	—	1
Totals	56	56	112

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar General for the past ten years are as follows :—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
9,930	10,220	10,320	10,340	10,400	10,610	10,780	11,210	11,380	11,280

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 94.

Birth Rate 1951-1960

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Brackley	16.5	18.6	16.2	20.8	19.0	18.2	19.1	17.0	16.2	18.2
Northamptonshire	15.57	15.50	16.16	16.20	15.49	16.67	17.03	16.9	16.6	17.7
England and Wales	15.5	15.3	15.5	18.3	15.0	14.6	15.4	16.4	15.2	17.1

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 206 compared with 185 in 1959. The birth rate for 1960 of 18.2 is 2.0 per thousand more than the rate for 1959 and 1.1 higher than the rate 17.1 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1960

Still-Births. There were 2 still-births during 1960.

Illegitimate Births. There were 12 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1960 (6 male and 6 female) an increase of 6 on the previous year's figures.

Infant Mortality Rate, 1951-1960

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Brackley.	30.4	20.3	47.6	28.3	10.1	26.0	9.2	20.9	21.6	29.1
Northamptonshire.	25.26	24.96	24.70	23.9	20.79	19.68	22.53	19.7	20.2	22.57
England and Wales.	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.9	24.8	22.5	22.6	21.7

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was 6.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes or conditions allied to childbirth.

Death Rate 1951—1960

Year	Brackley				Northamp- tonshire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.	Recorded Rate		
1951	127	71	56	12·7	12·13	12·5
1952	92	61	31	9·00	11·04	11·3
1953	97	48	49	9·3	11·51	11·4
1954	94	46	48	9·09	11·04	11·3
1955	113	56	57	10·7	11·38	11·7
1956	121	73	48	11·4	11·24	11·3
1957	110	58	52	10·2	10·97	13·4
1958	120	56	64	10·7	11· 5	11·7
1959	132	76	56	11·5	11·7	11·1
1960	112	56	56	9·9	10·88	11·5

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream, water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. The service is entirely free.

(b) **Nursing in The Home**

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

Infant Welfare—Brackley

Orthopædic Clinic

Vision Clinic

Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney

{ Organised
by County
Council

(d) **Blind Persons**

Incidence of blindness is reported upon in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) **Tuberculosis**

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) **Dental Treatment**

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) **Epileptics and Spastics**

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

(h) **Domiciliary Services**

Details are included in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Generally.

In regard to sanitary circumstances in the district I am pleased to report that a very marked improvement has taken place over recent years, and that the conditions existing at the present time are encouraging and reflect much credit on the Council particularly in the efficient way in which they have dealt with the water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal and refuse collection, and are in fact continuing to improve these important public services.

Drainage and Sanitation.

Improvements in this connection are continuously taking place and during the year the following work has been carried out under supervision by the Department :—

New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	80
New wash basins provided	...	...	...	...	64
New baths provided	...	...	...	...	60
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	46
New drainage or extensions to existing drainage provided	...	...	...	...	84

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Since my previous report the following work was undertaken in this connection :—

Aynho. Sewerage completed.

Croughton. Extension to sewage disposal works completed.

Crowfield. Scheme for resewering prepared.

Middleton Cheney (Lower). Resewering in progress.

Whitfield. Scheme being prepared.

The present position in the various parishes at the end of 1960 is as follows :—

Place	New Sewers	New Sewage Disposal Works
Aston le Walls	Deferred	Deferred
Aynho	Completed	Deferred
Boddington	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Chacombe	Completed	Completed
Charlton	Deferred	Deferred
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	Completed
Crowfield	Scheme prepared	Scheme prepared
Culworth	Completed	Completed
Evenley	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Eydon	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Farthinghoe	Completed	Completed
Greatworth	Completed	Completed
Helmdon	Completed	Completed
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	Deferred	Deferred
Kings Sutton	Completed	Completed
Marston St. Lawrence	Deferred	Deferred
Middleton Cheney	Work in progress	Completed
(Lower)		
Middleton Cheney	35% Completed	Deferred
(Upper)		
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed
Radstone	Deferred	Deferred
Sulgrave	Deferred	Part completed
Syresham	Completed	Completed
Thorpe Mandeville	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Whitfield	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared

Water Supply.

It is estimated that there are now 3,404 properties (approx. 98%) connected to the mains supply.

A total of 127 samples of this supply were taken throughout the District and it is pleasing to note that only one sample was found to be contaminated. This proved to be a local and transitory contamination and check samples taken were found to be satisfactory. There is also an improvement in the colour, taste and smell of the water, although during the month of August some complaints were received of the unsatisfactory quality from residents in Croughton and Aynho. In April the Bucks Water Board installed carbon filters to improve the quality of the water and no doubt these have effected an improvement.

By an Act of Parliament the Bucks Water Board became the Statutory Water Undertakers for this district and the area office of the Board is at Buckingham.

A sample of water was also submitted to a chemical analysis and the Analyst's report is appended.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37, Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

18th July, 1960.

Ref. RKC/ET/W.145

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 6th July, 1960.

From : W. E. Turbitt, Brackley R.D.C.

Description :—Sample from River Great Ouse, Regional Supply.

Appearance	Bright, few large particles
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.150
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.224
Chlorine in Chlorides	38.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	Minute trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours ...	0.9
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	390
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7.60
Free Chlorine	0.1
Radioactivity	—

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality and subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, safe for use for drinking purposes.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,

Public Analysts.

Water Samples.

Details of samples of mains water taken in 1960 and results of bacteriological examinations thereof are :—

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	4	—	4
Aynho	4	—	4
Upper Boddington	4	—	4
Lower Boddington	3	—	3
Chacombe	3	—	3
Chipping Warden	4	—	4
Croughton	4	—	4
Culworth	4	—	4
Evenley	10	—	10
Eydon	6	—	6
Farthinghoe	4	—	4
Greatworth	8	—	8
Helmdon	4	—	4
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	4	—	4
Kings Sutton	6	—	6
Marston St. Lawrence	4	—	4
Middleton Cheney	13	1	14
Moreton Pinkney	6	—	6
Newbottle	4	—	4
Radstone	3	—	3
Sulgrave	4	—	4
Syresham	7	—	7
Thenford	3	—	3
Thorpe Mandeville	4	—	4
Warkworth	3	—	3
Whitfield	3	—	3
	126	1	127
	or 99·213%	or ·787%	

Private Supplies.

There were 8 samples taken from private sources of which 3 were found to be unsatisfactory.

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston-le-Walls	2	—	2
Culworth	—	1	1
King's Sutton	—	1	1
Middleton Cheney	3	—	3
Syresham	—	1	1
	5	3	8

Caravans and Camping Sites.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into force as from the 29th August 1960, introducing a new licensing system for caravans.

Briefly this new Act aims at (1) to control the location of caravan sites so as to prevent them starting up in the wrong places while allowing them to develop in suitable places and (2) to improve conditions on sites by requiring good standards of layout, equipment and maintenance.

Certain kinds of sites are exempted such as those used occasionally by touring caravans or if the caravans are being used by seasonable agriculture or forestry workers employed on land in the same ownership as the site. Apart from the prescribed exemptions all caravan sites must be licensed and a fine of up to £100 for a first offender can be imposed on anyone who permits land he occupies to be used as a caravan site without a licence. Site licences will be granted only if the Planning Authority consider the site suitable. Conditions as regard layout, equipment and maintenance may be imposed in the licence.

At the time of this new Act coming into operation there were 23 individual caravans in this area under licence, whilst 2 caravan sites were licensed to accommodate a maximum of 14 and 4 caravans respectively.

The Act does not discourage the use of caravans for those who desire to live in them but would appear to aim at improving conditions so that such a way of living is made more tolerable to all those concerned. I still am of the opinion that living in caravans, especially where there are children, is not generally satisfactory from the public health aspect.

In connection with the supervision of caravans and caravan sites 107 inspections have been made throughout the year.

Schools.

All schools in the district have been visited during the year and 11 samples of water and 36 of milk were taken. All the water samples were found bacteriologically satisfactory and the milk samples satisfied the prescribed tests to which they were subjected.

I am glad to report that a private school in this area has this year been connected to the mains water supply. The old source of water supply to the school gave rise to some anxiety in the Health Department and the considerable expense involved in laying on the mains supply will no doubt be considered worthwhile by all concerned. There is still one school using drinking water from a private supply, but samples taken over the years have so far found the water to be of a bacteriological safe standard. Nevertheless, I should feel more happy if this particular school enjoyed the safety and other advantages of the mains supply of water which is readily available in the village where the school is situated. I understand there is a possibility that this school may be closed in the near future.

The Northamptonshire County Council supply meals to 10 schools in the area. The meals at present being prepared at either Byfield, Brackley or Syresham and delivered to the schools daily by motor transport. There is only one school canteen in the district where the meals are actually prepared and cooked on the premises under conditions which are considered to be satisfactory.

By courtesy of the County Education Officer (Mr. G. E. Churchill), I have been furnished with the following details which show the present position in regard to the provision of school meals in this district.

Schools	Whether School Meals are provided	Sent out from
Aston-le-Walls	Yes	Byfield.
Aynho	Yes	Brackley at present. King's Sutton in the near future.
Upper Boddington	Yes	Byfield.
Chacombe	No	
Charlton	No	
Chipping Warden	Yes	Byfield.
Croughton	Yes	Brackley at present. King's Sutton in the near future.
Culworth	No	
Evenley	No	
Eydon	No	
Farthinghoe	No	
Greatworth	No	
Helmdon	Yes	Brackley.
Kings Sutton	Yes	Brackley at present. King's Sutton in the near future.
Marston St. Lawrence	No	
Middleton Cheney	Yes	Brackley at present. Middleton Cheney from 17/1/61.
Moreton Pinkney	No	
Sulgrave	No	
Syresham	Yes	Own Canteen.
Thorpe Mandeville	Yes	Brackley at present. Middleton Cheney from 17/1/61.

Shops and Offices.

This year 653 inspections were made at shops and I am informed by the Health Inspectors that with the exception of a few minor instances that conditions prevailing at the shops were satisfactory and conformed to the relative Acts and Regulations.

So far as offices are concerned no inspections were made during the year. As referred to in my Report for 1959 a Private Members' Bill then before Parliament was likely to bring about the compulsory inspection of all offices at some future date. The Offices Act, 1960 did, in fact receive Royal Assent on the 29th July, 1960, and comes into operation on the 1st January, 1962. The object of the Act is to make better provisions for health, welfare and safety in offices. Local Authorities have duties under the Act relating to enforcement, inspection and receipt of notification of accidents in certain cases, and those Local Authorities concerned include Rural District Councils.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year regarding smoke or grit emissions from factory chimneys. There are 13 premises only in the area registered as factories and with one exception are small concerns. Any air pollution would mostly arise from domestic chimneys whilst this is steadily being reduced by the introduction of modern high efficiency grates with the use of smokeless fuels and the abolition of old and inefficient fireplaces.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are still no such places in the District which require supervision.

Verminous Premises.

No action was necessary during the year.

Public Cleansing.

A kerbside collection is made fortnightly throughout the area, the refuse still being disposed of by tipping at Charlton, Greatworth and Moreton Pinkney. The service being under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Factory Acts 1937 and 1948.

Until this year it has been the duty of the Public Health Inspectors in the course of their visits to factories to inspect the "means of escape in case of fire" and it was necessary for the factory owner to hold a certificate issued by the Council certifying that the means of escape were adequate and satisfactory.

The Factories Act 1959 now transfers this duty to the Fire Authority for this Area which is the County Council and ensures that the inspection is undertaken by qualified Fire Officers. However, the Rural District Council retain responsibility for the inspection of Factories in regard to general public health matters.

This Council also issue licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and the Public Health Inspectors visit all such stores in the District to ensure that adequate precautions are taken against fire. This is another duty which could, with advantage, be transferred to the Fire Authority when the inspection of the stores would be undertaken by officers trained in fire prevention.

Inspections

No. of premises on register	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
13	32	1	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found

Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
1	1	Nil.

There are still no outworkers in the district.

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1960.

Inspections—Housing Act	114
Re-inspections	403
Inspections—Public Health Act	267
Notices served	23
Re-inspected	124
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	21
No. of complaints received	214
Food Notices served	21
Food Notices complied with	29
Factory Inspections	32
Factory Notices served	1
Factory Notices complied with	1

Visits to:—

Butchers' Shops	85
Bakehouses	32
Fishmongers	6
Dairies and Milk Shops	52
Public Houses	130
Provision Shops	209
Greengrocers	20
Ice Cream Places	133
Dining Rooms	6
Schools	78
Infectious Disease enquiries	30
Inspection of drainage work	121
Petroleum Stores	20
Miscellaneous	60
Caravans	107

Summary of Complaints Received—1960.

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 214 and concerned the following matters, viz. :—

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	27
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	2
Insanitary dwellings	5
Insect pests	21
Pollution of Water-courses	1
Nuisance from keeping animals	4
General housing defects	12
Leaking roofs	2
Dilapidated or dangerous premises or structures	1
Dampness in dwellings	5
Caravans	5
Water Supply	6
Food and Milk	1
Rats and Mice	113
Miscellaneous	9
Total	214

This total is 72 less than last year.

**Statement of Housing Repairs or Improvements
dealt with during the Year 1960.**

	Number of Houses
Completely reconditioned	20
New drainage systems and water-closets installed in place of privies or pail-closets	80
Sundry repairs and improvements carried out	36

Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive accumulations removed	2
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	9
Insanitary dwellings	5
Insect pests	21

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

By the end of the year the Council had dealt with the remaining houses in the first 5-year Slum Clearance Programme ending 31st December, 1960. Some of these houses have still to be demolished (or made fit for habitation) but all of the initial action has now been taken. Only 7 of these properties are occupied.

The Council was asked by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to embark on a second 5-year programme to embrace the remaining sub-standard properties. There are now 130 of these on which no action has been taken. A large proportion of them are occupied by elderly tenants or owner/occupiers and it is estimated that only 23 of the 130 could be dealt with in the next 5 years. The remaining houses will be again inspected as and when they become vacant. It is estimated that the majority of these houses will have been dealt with in approximately 10 years.

It can, therefore, be said that the Council has 'broken the back' of slum clearance in this District, relatively few unhealthy houses remain.

With the continued progress of re-sewering of the villages we are in sight of seeing the last of the privy and pail closet. It is to be hoped that the day is not too distant when each house will have a bathroom and hot and cold running water.

The complete Slum Clearance Programme is shown in Table 'A' and action taken during the year in Table 'B.'

Improvement Grants.

Applications for both the Discretionary Grant (Max. £400) and the Standard Grant (Max. £155) were received during the year although the number of applications continues to be small. There were 31 Discretionary and 28 Standard Grants approved.

TABLE "A"

"Slum Clearance" Programme.

(Number of houses unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable expense.)

					At 31st Aug., 1955		At 31st Dec., 1960		
Houses subject to existing Housing Act Orders :—									
Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	71	...	...	...	8
Demolition Orders Closing Orders and Undertakings	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	84
Dwellings demolished and dwell- ings reconditioned :—									
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	128
Huts demolished	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	66
Houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	92
Number of dwellings scheduled for future action under the Housing Acts :—									
Ex-Wartime hutments	...	...	...	...	66	...	...	...	—
Houses	...	...	...	...	336	...	...	...	130

TABLE "B"

"Slum Clearance"—Action taken in 1960

	Number of Dwellings
Demolished	31
Closed (Closing Orders and Undertakings) ...	7
Reconditioned and made fit for habitation ...	20
Demolition Orders made	16
Families rehoused from 'slum' property	16

TABLE "C".
Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position						Post-war Housing Programme					
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Private houses acquired and reconditioned	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	30	32
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	21	27
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	2	—	15	32
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	19	27
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	4	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	20	30
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	20	—	—	—	29	45
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	65	—	—	—	19	35
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	21	—	14	—	167	233
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	11	17
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	37	—	—	—	146	218
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	53	—	—	—	25	43
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	17	31
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	—	—	33	71
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
TOTAL	112	4	76	154	4	350	207	—	16	2	670	1022

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Food Premises Generally.

The "changing face" of food shops and premises in the district shows a pronounced healthy appearance over the past and previous years. There are encouraging signs of improvements in many of our shops in regard to better equipment and internal layout and planning of the interior of shops. The high gloss surface is displacing wood counters and benches which come into contact with food. Refrigerated display cabinets are appearing in a number of shops and perhaps the high cost of much of this desirable type of equipment is a reason why many retailers are slow to respond to the call for modern equipment. With the exception of one shop refrigerators are now in general use. This particular retailer states that the high cost of a refrigerator is the reason for not installing one but one feels that such an excuse is a feeble one as refrigerators can now be purchased by instalments or even possibly hired. Such a retailer is found to be loathe generally to improve his shop premises and equipment despite the fact that by having his shop in order he is not only making life easier for himself, he is at the same time making provision for the food to be fresher and cleaner. It makes one think that possibly this type of food retailer is, due to his own laxity, putting himself out of business which may be all to the common good.

As in former years it will be seen that many visits are made by the Health Inspectors to food premises to ascertain if the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations are being reasonably observed by the food dealers, and in a great majority of cases this is being done. Even with offenders there is a reluctance to recommend prosecution—unless, of course, offences are serious or persistent—which would leave no alternative. Your officials think that educating the offender is preferable to prosecuting him so long as he will co-operate and would prefer that any money handed over in fines could be more profitably used to abolish the original evil.

The relatively high cost of improving premises and equipment is a reason why many retailers are slow to respond to the call of modern hygiene, but the truth that is often more compelling than the law must be pointed out that hygiene walks hand-in-hand with efficiency. It is found that local competition is conducive to improvement in food shops and has helped in a number of small food shops in some of our villages.

Codes of Practice are issued by the Ministry of Health to guide shop keepers in complying with the law. They cover routine precautions by those handling food and the construction and proper equipping of premises to aid cleanliness. The person behind the counter is asked to have clean hands and wear clean protective clothing. Female assistants should have their hair covered. No-one with open cuts or wounds or infectious disease must handle foods. Blowing into bags, smoking, chewing fingernails and licking pencils is discouraged. Old newspapers should not be used for food wrapping. On the other hand customers should not smoke when inside food shops or bring dogs inside the shop. The Food Hygiene Regulations prohibit a shop assistant smoking whilst handling food inside a food shop but a customer in the same shop can apparently smoke like a "chimney" if he so desires. The shop assistant often shows resentment if reminded that smoking is an offence but the customer commits no offence under the Regulations if the Health Inspector finds him smoking, and I wonder what would be the reaction if the Inspector or the shop keeper were to be bold enough to ask the customer to refrain from smoking. Perhaps he would transfer his custom elsewhere as far as the bold shop keeper is concerned and, as far as the Health Inspector is concerned, a complaint may be lodged at the Council Offices, that this patient and tolerable officer has seriously interfered with the rights and privileges of an irate ratepayer.

Because again no case of food poisoning was notified during the year the continual supervision of the food shops and premises throughout the district not only reflects that this important work of the Health Inspectors was well worth while, but should give satisfaction to the Council and to the Public whom they serve. There were, however, two men affected with typical food poisoning symptoms after eating a suspected pork pie bought from a shop in this district but which was actually manufactured outside the area. No notification of this illness was given to the Health Department by a Doctor so action was taken purely on hearsay. By the time one of the Health Inspectors visited the household concerned—and this took place within half an hour of having received information of the occurrence—the two men were already on the way to recovery. Food poisoning is like this. The onset is rapid and the recovery usually fairly soon. The Health Inspector was able to procure some of the suspected pork pies which had in fact been distributed to various shops in several villages in the District and pending a report on a bacteriological examination he was able to stop any pies not already sold being bought and eaten. An examination of the pies submitted to the Public Health Laboratory showed that

certain of the pies had developed considerable growths of pathogens in sufficient number as to cause illness to anyone eating them. Heavy growths of both staphylococcus aureus and Bact. coli were found in some of the pies. Others showed no pathogens present. Details of this event were passed on to the Health Department in whose area the pies are manufactured and further investigation was made at the factory making the pies.

Since the happening which I have just before described samples of various foods known to be susceptible to food poisoning organisms have been taken from some of our food shops. The results of the bacteriological examinations of these is shown in the following table. It is disturbing to find that certain food poisoning pathogens showed in some of these articles of food. The results of these examinations are discussed with the food vendor concerned and possible causes for the presence of pathogens are pointed out and suggestions made with a view to eliminating them in the future. This is another aspect of purely educational work which, so to speak, goes on behind the scenes and of which members of the public are unaware is being carried out for their protection.

Sample	Culture
Faggots	Heavy growth of Bact. anitratum . Scanty growth of yeasts.
Cream Bun	Scanty growth of Bact. Coli (Faecal) , micrococci and yeasts.
Beef Sausages	Heavy growth of Bact. Coli , a paracolon and yeasts.
Pork Pie	Scanty growth of micrococci.
Sausage Roll	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing organisms, and yeasts.
Pork Pie	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing organisms, Strep. Faecalis and yeasts.
Cream Bun	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing organisms, micrococci and yeasts.
Pork Pie	Staph. Aureus and aerobic spore-bearing organisms.
Pork Pie	A paracolon, micrococci and aerobic spore- bearing organisms.
Pork Sausages	A paracolon, Bact. alkaligenes , Staph. Aureus , Cl. Welchii , and aerobic spore- bearing organisms.
Cream Bun	Micrococci and aerobic spore-bearing organisms.

In the interest of food hygiene a total number of 653 visits were made during the year. Two food shops have closed down since my 1959 Report was submitted.

There were 130 visits to Public Houses. There are now 40 of these licensed premises, 2 having been closed during this period by the Brewery Companies concerned.

As is shown on Page 32 of this Report work of improvement was carried out in regard to sanitary arrangements at such premises and further improvements in this direction are either proceeding at the present time or pending.

Ice Cream.

There were 67 samples of ice cream taken, an increase of 44 over the previous year's total of 23. All these were considered to be of satisfactory quality indicating the marked improvement in the manufacture of this commodity which has taken place over the past years.

The grading of these samples showed 60 to be of Grade 1 and 7 Grade 2, there being little difference between these two Grades. None of the samples was placed in Grades 3 or 4 which would be considered as unsatisfactory.

There are 38 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Section 16, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which is one less than last year.

For the purpose of inspection and sampling 133 visits were made at ice cream premises an increase of 82 against the number for 1959.

Milk Supply.

All milk sold in the area is bottled by wholesalers outside the district. There are now 13 registered distributors of milk in the area. Milk now sold comprises :—Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised), Pasteurised and Sterilised. There are no pasteurisation plants in the area.

Distributors licences issued for operation during 1960 were :—

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations 1949-54

Licences for sale of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licences for sale of Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2

Raw Milk Regulations 1949-54

Licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	5
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Dealers whose premises are outside this district but who are issued with supplementary licences to sell milk in the area of the Brackley Rural District are :—

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations 1949-54

Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
Licences for the sale of Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	—

Raw Milk Regulations 1949-54

Licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

There was a total of 45 milk samples taken and subjected to the prescribed tests as follows :—

- 21 Samples of Pasteurised Milk submitted to both the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.
- 16 Samples of Pasteurised Milk submitted to the Phosphatase Test only.
- 2 Samples of Pasteurised Milk submitted to the Methylene Blue Test only.
- 3 Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.
- 3 Samples of Sterilised Milk submitted to the Turbidity Test.

—
45
—

All the above milk samples were satisfactory.

No samples were submitted to Biological Tests.

For the purpose of milk supply and control, 52 visits were made.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations—1960.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-54 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949-53 were replaced during the year by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations—1960. By these new Regulations the licensing of Dealers was transferred to the Food and Drugs Authority, which, for this area is the Northamptonshire County Council.

The County Council, however, has delegated their powers to this Rural District Council so far as Dealers' Licences are concerned.

There were 14 Dealers' licences and 12 Supplementary licences existing in this area in 1960, all expiring on the 31st December, 1960.

The supplementary licences permitted dealers in milk, whose premises were situate outside this area to distribute milk within the District. The new Regulations prescribe a new form of licence known as 'The Dealers (Pre-packed) Milk Licence' which authorises in a single form of licence the use of any or all of the appropriate special designations, where the milk is obtained by the licensed dealer pre-packed i.e., in the containers which are to be delivered to the Consumers.

There are now no supplementary licence holders, and the recipient of the new form of licence is permitted to sell milk outside the area of the issuing Authority without obtaining further licences. The period of the new licence is extended from one to five years.

Food and Drugs Act—1955—Section 16.

Those premises required to be registered in accordance with the above Act are :—

38 Premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

10 Butchers Shops for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled or preserved foods.

One of the premises ceased to deal in ice cream during the year and the registration was accordingly cancelled.

Meat Inspection.

As all fresh meat sold in this area is bought by the butchers from outside sources — usually Banbury or Northampton—other than keeping a watchful eye on the quality of meat displayed for sale in the shops no meat inspection at the place of slaughter is done by the Health Inspectors—although they are both qualified to do so—as no slaughtering is done inside the District. It will be remembered that all our slaughterhouses are closed permanently.

There are still 10 Butcher's Shops in the area of this Council to which 85 visits were made this year.

Food Inspection (Other than meat)

To food shops and other premises dealing with foods 568 visits were made and in the main the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were being observed. Any infringements of these Regulations were dealt with at the time by the Health Inspectors. Mostly the food vendors are co-operating satisfactorily with the Inspectors.

Only a fore-end of bacon was condemned due to fly-blown condition.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Articles of food and drink for sale in this area are sampled by the Northamptonshire County Council to ascertain whether the food or drink conforms to certain required standards, is free from adulteration and is, in fact, what it is purported to be by the manufacturer or salesman.

Details of samples taken by County Officials in our district during the year under review are as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard and Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin and Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar and Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
									—
									55
									—

Remarks.

All the samples taken were satisfactory in every respect.

Details of the Various Food Premises in the District

Nature of Business

	No. in District or on Register	No. of Visits during year
General Provision Stores ...	48	209
Butchers' Shops	10	85
Dining and Tea Rooms	4	6
Public Houses or Inns	40	130
Bakehouses	3	32
Milk Distributors	13	52
Ice Cream Premises	38	133
Fish Fryers or Fish Shops ...	1	6

Details of Repairs and Improvements to Food Premises.

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	6
--------------------------------	---

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Repaired	4
Structural Alterations	2
Redecorated internally	5

Cafés and Public Houses

Suitable closet accommodation provided	5
Repaired	4
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	2
Structural alterations made	5
Bar Sink with hot and cold water provided	1
Redecorated internally	6

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This year a total of 46 notifications of infectious diseases were received which was 98 fewer than last year. There was no serious outbreak during the year and no deaths from this cause. The greater number of notifications concerned measles of which there were 36 cases mostly occurring during the months of May, June and July.

The three cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild form.

Anterior Poliomyelitis was fortunately not present in the area.

Neither was any notification of Food Poisoning received although there were 2 persons who had been affected with typical food poisoning symptoms to which I have previously referred on page 26 in my Report.

In the early part of the year Sonne Dysentery was discovered at a Private School in the District. Knowledge of this was first obtained when a telephone message was received from the Slade Isolation Hospital, Oxford, where a boy admitted from this school was found to be suffering from the disease. Faeces specimens taken revealed that a member of the kitchen staff, 6 boys and the daughter of the Headmaster were affected with *Shigella Sonnei*. Appropriate precautions were advised and taken at the school and eventually the outbreak cleared up.

Smallpox—No case notified.

Puerperal Fever—No case notified.

Enteric Fever—No case notified.

Pneumonia—1 case was notified as against 4 last year.

Full details of the total number of infectious cases notified during this year can be seen on reference to the Table on Page 35 of this Report.

The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Amendment Regulations—1960.

The Minister of Health has made the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Amendment Regulations 1960, which came into operation on 1st December 1960. These Regulations provide for the notification by Medical Practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health of all cases of Anthrax.

All Doctors serving this Area have been advised of the requirements of these Regulations. As Anthrax has now been added to the list of notifiable diseases any case of this disease occurring in the district should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health in the usual way.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

By the courtesy of Dr. C. M. Smith, the County Medical Officer of Health, the following figures are given of vaccination and immunisation for the year ending 31st December, 1960, and the number of children who had completed a full course of Diphtheria immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1960.

Smallpox Vaccination

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2-4)	(5-14)	(15 or over)	Total
Primary	29	29	8	2	10	78
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	9	9

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	15 or over	Third Injs. (all ages)
5	65	26	2	6	10	15	129	483	627

Diphtheria Immunisation

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation only :								
5	—	1	1	—	10	1	18	11
Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough :								
21	8	16	1	—	4	—	50	21
Triple 48	12	1	1	1	6	3	72	16
Total Diphtheria Immunisations :								
74	20	18	3	1	20	4	140	48

Whooping Cough only :

3	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	—
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.60. i.e., born in year :

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total
1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1951-1955	1946-1950	Under 15

Number Immunised :

29	97	117	127	128	557	640	1,695
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Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
During the year, 1960

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Chipping Warden	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Croughton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Culworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greatworth	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	15
Helmdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	6
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middleton Cheney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Newbottle/Charlton	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	16
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	1	36	5	—	—	—	1	46

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Scarlet Fever	—	3	16	8	9	—	5	—	8	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	4	3	2	1	1	3	1	4	1
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	134	23	152	4	338	—	105	111	108	36
Whooping Cough	28	6	22	15	46	—	17	3	17	5
Food Poisoning	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	—	2	—	1	—	8	4	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	7	1

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1960

A statement showing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	14	7	12	2	—	—	1	—	36
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	5
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	1	2	—	14	7	12	3	1	—	5	1	46

Tuberculosis.

There was a decrease of 8 in cases of tuberculosis notified against the previous year's total of 10.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1960

Age Periods Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	—	—	—
45 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—
Total	2	—	—	—

The 67 cases on the Register at the end of the year were classified as follows :—

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
24	24	11	8	35	32

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Your Rodent Operative has now been working in this area since November 1950 and during these 10 years he has performed his duties in a most conscientious and efficient manner and I cannot write too highly of the esteem in which he is held, not only by his colleagues in the Public Health Department, but by all with whom he comes in contact in the performance of his important duties. He never seems to tire of his work, in fact, his enthusiasm seems to increase with his advancing years. This year he attained the age of 70 without any apparent lessening in zeal and ability so far as his work of rodent destruction is concerned. I would like it to be known how much we in the Department value the services of Mr. George Bartlett. According to records kept he has been responsible during his service with the Council for the destruction of at least 43,000 Rats and 12,000 Mice. A commendable achievement !

To emphasise the importance of this work let us estimate that a rat causes damage to food and premises at say £1 per rat per year and 10/- per mouse per year. Based on these hypothetical figures the cost of rodent control in this district has shown a worthwhile return over the 10 years it has been in operation as 43,000 rats and 12,000 mice with a potential damage cost of £1 and 10/- per rodent respectively is estimated to have saved no less than £49,000.

The damage done by rats alone in a year throughout England and Wales is colossal and the estimated cost from an authoritative source made in 1951 is that it was of the order of £25,000,000.

Apart from the damage, rats and mice are carriers of disease so their destruction and control effects a further saving of cost to the community in this direction.

Warfarin is the poison mainly used. Cost of treatment at business premises is charged at 10/- per hour plus 1/- per lb. bait used. Private dwellings are dealt with at a charge of 5/- per completed treatment. These charges realised £173 4s. during the year, but it should be remembered that rodent control is not a profit making project; it is an important public service to the community.

Test-baiting of the sewers in the following parishes was completed in June of this year, having previously been done in 1958, and again there was no infestation of any kind discovered. A contributory factor to the absence of any infestation is no doubt the continual treatment undertaken at the sewer outfalls by the Rodent Operative.

Parish	No. of Manholes Test-Baited
Aston-le-Walls	2
Aynho	5
Chacombe	9
Chipping Warden	10
Croughton	10
Culworth	8
Eydon	12
Farthinghoe	6
Greatworth	5
Helmdon	5
King's Sutton	16
Middleton Cheney	6
Moreton Pinkney	10
Overthorpe	8
Sulgrave	4
Syresham	5
	—
	Total 121
	—
Number of Manholes showing bait taken	Nil
	—

Details of the work of the Rodent Operative carried out during 1960 are as follows :—

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	113
No. of premises inspected and treated (private and business)	171
No. of visits made	522
No. of premises cleared	171
No. of survey visits made	612
No. of rat bodies found	1136
No. of baiting points	4574

Quantity of Material Used.

Oatmeal	2100 lbs.
Cymag	14 lbs.
Warfarin	119 lbs.

Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	28
No. of visits and surveys made	87
No. of rat bodies found	720
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	34
No. of visits and surveys made	146

Total Number of Bodies Found.

(1) Rats	1856
(2) Mice	618

The Bicester Advertiser Ltd.,
Market Square,
Bicester.
